

Today's 12-year-old will be 27 in the year 2000, just entering his or her prime years. For this student, the 21st century has already arrived. The challenge for today's teachers is to meet the demands of students who will be faced with ever-increasing and complex global challenges.

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As the late U Thant, Secretary-General of the U.N., stated, education must produce "a veritable mental renaissance" to build the conditions for lasting peace. We need renaissance individuals who, though they have grown up under the nuclear shadow, have forsaken the luxury of despair for the driving optimism of hope.

Those who are seriously concerned with trying to save the world from nuclear destruction must never give up hope. It is essential to maintain a commitment to negotiating nuclear weapons down to zero and to refuse to be discouraged just because that goal cannot be achieved overnight. The final words of Freeman Dyson in *Weapons and Hope* are useful:

"To achieve this goal, we shall need a world-wide awakening of moral indignation pushing the governments and their military establishments to get rid of these weapons which in the long run endanger everybody and protect nobody."

Can we give the next generation the determination that the world must go on and the prospect of other, better ways of organizing global society than by dividing it into hostile, warring factions?

This will be the work of the next generation, and we must prepare young people for it.